<u>**WE CLAIM**</u>:

1. A secure architecture for encoded or encrypted digital audio files comprising:

a computing platform for processing encrypted or encoded digital data, said computing platform including a peripheral bus and configured to run audio or video playback application software and pass said encrypted or encoded digital data to said peripheral bus configured so as to be not-accessible by said audio or video playback software;

a peripheral coupled to said peripheral bus configured to decrypt or decode said encrypted or encoded digital data and generate a decoded or decrypted output signal.